

REMARKS

The Office Action

The declaration stands objected to because (1) the city in which the inventor lives was not identified and (2) the postal code of the Tokai Research Establishment was not identified.

Claims 13 and 16-19 were objected to for failing to further limit the claims from which they depend.

Claims 13, 16, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 13, 16, 18, and 19 depend from cancelled claims. Claim 20 stands rejected for reciting both method and apparatus steps.

Claim 20 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because it encompasses two statutory classes of invention.

Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schreiner in view of Sealock and DiFilippo and Fujii.

Claims 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schreiner in view of Sealock and DiFilippo and Simonetti.

Claims 8, 17, and 20/8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Madono in view of Katagiri and Koshishiba.

Claims 8, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19, and 20/9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Katagiri, and further in view of Koshishiba. Applicant believes that the recitation of claim 8 in this rejection is merely a typographical error, and that the Examiner intended to reject claims 9, not claim 8, by way of this rejection, in view of the separate rejection of claims 8 and 20/8.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 are allowed. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable solely because they contain elements as recited that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art as a whole.

The Amendments

All claims *except* claims 1, 2, 5, and new claims 21/1 and 22/2 have been cancelled to put the application in unambiguous condition for allowance.

New claims 21/1 and 22/2 are derived from now-cancelled claims 20/1 and 20/2, respectively. Claim 20 has been revised to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the features of the claimed apparatus that Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are supported by original claim 20 and throughout the specification, and they add no new matter to the application. Entry of the claims is respectfully requested.

Remarks

Applicant respectfully submits that the application now is in unambiguous condition for allowance.

Applicant files herewith a supplemental declaration which identifies this application, the United States application from which it claims priority, and the Japanese application from which priority is claimed, through the earlier-filed United States application. This supplemental declaration also clearly identifies the Applicant's city of residence as 'Mito-shi' and gives the postal code of the Tokai Research Establishment (319-1106). Therefore, although Applicant respectfully submits that the postal code was not required and that submission of Applicant's city of residence does not require the filing of a supplemental declaration, Applicant has filed a supplemental declaration that satisfies each of the Examiner's requirements. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's requirement has been satisfied.

Applicant respectfully obviates the various rejections of claims 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 16-19, 20/8, and 20/9 by cancelling these claims. Applicant also has cancelled claims 20/1, 20/2, 20/3, and 20/4. Applicant reserves the privilege of filing a continuing application directed to these claims.

Applicant has re-written claims 20/1 and 20/2 in the form of new claims 21/1 and 22/2. These claims have been entered to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, these claims now are directed to apparatus features, and not to the blend of apparatus and method features to which the Examiner objected. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable because each depends from an allowed claim.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A supplemental declaration has been filed, and only allowed claims and claims depending from these allowed claims now are pending. Applicant respectfully requests favorable action on claims 1, 2, 5, 21/1, and 22/2.

Respectfully submitted,

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